

## **ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE MEMBER CHAMPION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE 2018/19**

### **Introduction**

It is a great privilege for me to have been chosen as the Champion for Young people in Havering in May 2018. Over the course of the past year I have been going out into the community to meet with the various services on offer to young people in our Borough. It has been so interesting to find out the services and provisions on offer for our young people.

Young people in society do sometimes get a ‘bad press’.

Although there is of course limits on what we as a Council can provide, nevertheless Havering is a great Borough to live in and provides our young people with many opportunities and services to access.

I hope to build on these foundations in the coming year and continue to support our young people.

### **Facts about Havering’s Young people**

<b>62,190</b>	Estimated number of young people aged 0 -19 in Havering (Havering Intelligence data)
<b>22.1%</b>	of Havering’s population is 0 -17 (Havering Intelligence data)
<b>22</b>	Number of secondary schools in Havering

### **What is there for the youth of Havering to do?**

**Open spaces:** We are lucky to have large numbers of parks and open spaces in our Borough which many of our young people use, many of which have park gym facilities and are used to host sports facilities and events. A new ‘parkour’ facility opened in Harrow Lodge Park in 2018.

**Leisure facilities** – There is a range of leisure facilities in Havering that are run by Everyone Active, the Councils sports and leisure management provider , The new Sapphire Ice and Leisure centre which opened in 2018, providing the Romford area with new swimming facilities, a gym and of course a new Ice Rink for Romford which has seen the return of the popular Romford Raiders ice hockey team.



The local YMCA is also a great facility in which young people can access numerous services, large number of sports clubs and skate rink. A new leisure centre is planned in the South of the Borough (Rainham area) in the coming years.

**Music, performing arts** Youth theatre at Queens's theatre, Havering Music School, various performing arts clubs.

**Groups and clubs:** Havering has a thriving network of Scouts, Guides, Cadets, sports clubs, Drum and Trumpet groups and so on.

**Recreational** – In the Borough's principle town Romford, there is a large area of amenities that young people can make use of including 2 cinemas, a bowling alley and arcade and lots of retail shops.

**Libraries** – we have numerous libraries across the Borough offering numerous services and activities and a place for young people to go and research study.

**Education:** We are fortunate to have a number of large colleges in the area including Havering College, which has a unique construction college in Rainham.

## **Havering Youth Services**

It has been great to find out what is on offer from the councils youth services team.

The **London Borough of Havering's Youth Service** is based in the MyPlace building. The Youth Service delivers a packed programme of activities for young people to enjoy, including youth clubs, sports, Duke of Edinburgh awards, youth action, music and arts projects, a number of which are specifically targeted at children with disabilities.

The youth services workers are a highly professional and dedicated team who are committed to providing a great service to the youth of Havering.

They also have the use of a unique ‘**Youth bus**’ which gives them the ability to do outreach work and visit different areas in the Borough including housing estates and attend local events.



Some of the services include:

**Young people’s mentoring service:** The Havering Young People’s Mentor Service provides support to Havering children and young people aged 10-18 to make positive choices and achieve their goals. The Service is accessible to any Havering child or young person aged 10-18, who would benefit from up to 12 months of support in the following areas:

- Education, training or employment
- Anti-social and youth offending behaviour
- Substance misuse
- Healthy relationships and bullying
- Bereavement and loss
- Mental health
- Immigration
- Other family issues

### **The Cocoon:**

The Cocoon is a space that will enable young people to develop key life skills in a safe environment, have access to training, receive additional educational support, learn how to cook and receive support with housing and health. Since its opening, the centre, located in Romford town centre, has been endorsed by Ofsted as “highly impressive” and recently received a visit from its chief inspector who said she was keen to visit following positive feedback from her inspectors earlier this year.



## **Havering Youth Council/Youth Parliament**

The Havering Central Youth Council is an organisation made up of young people aged between 11 and 18 and inclusive to the age of 24 if the young person has additional needs. It is an independent body of young people, which represent no party political views.

### **The Youth council aims to:**

- Give young people a voice.
- Create opportunities for young people to become involved in democratic processes within the local community regionally and nationally.
- Enable young people to identify the issues that affect their lives in a negative way and determine what they need to do to effect change.
- Raise participation and achievement levels for ALL young people.
- Promote equal opportunities in Havering for all young people.
- Treat all young people fairly, with respect and ensure that they will be listened to.

If young people want to see changes in Havering, or have an idea that could benefit young people, they can speak to members of youth parliament or deputies and have their say.



Emily and Sila are the members of Youth Parliament for 2018/2020

The 'Make Your Mark' scheme is a UK wide ballot which gives young people aged 11-18 the chance to decide what Members of the Youth Parliament should debate and vote on in the House of Commons. There were 1,106,788 votes nationwide in 2018!

Most Havering secondary schools and youth centres participated, with 7039 votes being cast in Havering. This was a turnout of 29.2%, up from 21.5% in 2017.



### **The main concerns for Havering's young people:**

#### **Havering Top 5 issues 2018:**

1. End Knife Crime
2. Mental Health
3. Curriculum for Life
4. Equal Pay, Equal Work
5. End Period Poverty

#### **UK Top 5 issues 2018**

1. End Knife Crime
2. Mental Health
3. Equal Pay, Equal Work
4. Homelessness
5. Curriculum for Life

Havering's young people had very similar concerns to the rest of the UK. Unsurprisingly given recent events and the current media spotlight on the issue, ending knife crime was their top concern.

Havering Council alongside its partners in the police and other agencies have been working towards creating a '**Serious Group Violence and Knife Crime Strategy for Havering**'. Havering has aligned its strategic aims with those set out in the regional (MOPAC and London Crime Reduction Board) and national (Ending Gang Violence and Exploitation) strategic ambitions with a focus on:

- Tackling knife crime and gangs
- Early intervention for those on the periphery of crime
- Protecting and safeguarding our children (from exploitation & county lines)

The key actions of this strategy are included in an action plan, which focuses on prevention, intervention, enforcement and intelligence, and information sharing.

#### **Some key issues that I am personally interested in:**

- **Mental health and wellbeing of young people:** In my professional life, I work at the local mental health charity Havering Mind. One of my roles is to deliver training in schools to young people, their teachers and parents. I am well aware of the vast array of issues that young people face
- **Safe places to go:** It is so important that our young people have places to go in the Borough where they feel safe and comfortable. Lots of young people, and their parents, have told me and my fellow councillor colleagues of their fears and anxieties about their child going out for fear of them being mugged or assaulted. Young people should not be fearful of going to their local park, or going to the shops with their friends.
- **Making sure that the young people themselves feel valued and listened to:** One of the key things that I have picked up from a number of young people is that they don't feel valued, and that their opinions are not listened to. We need to make sure that any consultations we do with our young people are not simply a 'tick box exercise' but they are harnessing the ideas and opinions of the young people themselves and truly making them feel involved

#### **Intergenerational Forum**

This group started to meet in January 2017. It brings together the older generation, through the members of the Havering over 50s forum, with the younger generation – members of our youth parliament and others. They discuss various local and national issues including Knife Crime, Brexit, free speech, humour and so on. It is fascinating to see the similarities and differences in the perspectives of each side!

Our aim for the future of this forum is to expand it to reach more people by working more closely with local schools, and widening the scope to include other local community organisations and charities.

We hope that the intergenerational forum project may benefit both the children and the older people that take part, improving links and respect between the young and old and supporting those who might otherwise feel isolated and challenged.

### **Looked after Children (LAC) in the borough**

It was a privilege to learn about the great work that the Boroughs' staff do in the LAC department of the Council. I was delighted to attend the annual 'Looked after Children awards event' that took place in July at the City Pavilion. This event celebrates the hard work of the team of youth workers, the volunteers and of course the achievements of the young people themselves.

### **Children and Young people's mental health transformation board**

I am a member of this board, which is facilitated by Havering Public Health team. It includes workers from Public Health, Havering Council, CAMHs, local youth charities and the local CCGs.

The aim of the board is to look at local service provision for children and young peoples, in particular around issues of mental health, wellbeing and family support. Where possible the group makes recommendations to the local CCGs on spending the 'Sustainability and Transformation Plan' funding on projects that will improve young people's wellbeing. Examples of projects funded have included the Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (**ELSA**) project - a package of professional **training** and on-going supervision for HLTAs and Teaching Assistants in Primary and Secondary schools

### **Havering Council's current investment in Children's services**

Havering Council has recently announced it would spend an extra £750,000 on more resources to ensure earlier intervention across departments to safeguard children at risk of criminal exploitation. The local authority says part of the approach will target young people at risk by focusing on the places where they socialise. The additional funding, which will be spread over three years, will be used to recruit specialist staff and to commission projects for children and teenagers, as well as provide safeguarding training for staff. Cabinet member for children, education and families, Councillor Robert Benham said: "This additional funding means we can target the areas that need the funding the most.

### **Take a knife, save a life group**



A new community group launched in early 2019 called 'Take a Knife, Save a Life'. This non-profit group is run by a team of volunteers from backgrounds including first aiders, teachers, youth workers at parents. They regularly 'patrol' the streets and parks of Havering, 7 days a week, giving advice and guidance to people regarding knife crime and youth services. This is a great volunteer led initiative, which many members of our community have got behind.

### **Havering London Youth Games**

Each Year over 70,000 young people aged between 7 and 18 participate in the London Youth Games, Europe's largest annual sports event. 33 London Boroughs compete against each other in over 30 different sports, including sports for young people with disabilities.

Havering Hurricanes represent the London Borough of Havering and are proudly sponsored by Everyone Active.

Havering has a successful record at the Games, having won 16 times!



## First Give Competition

A number of secondary schools in Havering have taken part in this competition. Its aim is to inspire and equip young people to take action to tackle social issues. Over a series of 8 lessons students learn about social issues in their communities and choose which are important to them. They research charities working in their communities and as a class, choose one to represent. The charity is then invited in to meet the class, so that students can learn more about their work and how to help them. Students plan and deliver social action activities (fundraising, awareness raising, volunteering) in support of their charities. The students learn public speaking skills and put together creative presentations about the work of their charity and what their class has done to support it. One team is chosen by their classmates to represent the class in the School Final. At the School Final, attended by parents, charities and the year group, teams present to a panel of judges. The class who has engaged best with the First Give programme **wins £1,000** for their charity.



## Going forward

My aims for the coming year as Member champion for young people are:

- Lobbying for continued investment in Havering's Youth Services. The staff in this service are fantastic and could do so much more with more funding
- Supporting the creation of a 'Youth Unity' event to take place in Havering annually from 2020. I attended a similar event, which took place in Dagenham, which brought together a wide range of community services and resources and was attended by large numbers of that Borough's young residents.
- Supporting the development a 'one stop shop' resource: the Havering community tree which will signpost all the relevant services and resources in the Borough.

Exciting developments will be happening in Havering in the coming years and it will be vitally important that we include provisions and services for the young people of our Borough.

I look forward to continuing in this role in the coming year.

**Councillor Ciaran White**